

"MAN OVERBOARD!"

PART 3

IN an instant the sea, which had been comparatively quiet, was running higher and higher; and it became almost as dark as night. The hail and sleet were harder than I had yet felt them, seeming almost to pin us down to the rigging.

We were longer taking in sail than ever before, for the sails were stiff and wet, the ropes and rigging covered with snow and sleet, and we ourselves cold and nearly blinded with the violence of the storm.

By the time we had got down upon deck again the little brig was plunging madly into a tremendous head sea, which at every drive rushed in through the bowports and over the bows and buried all the forward part of the vessel.

At this instant the chief mate, who was standing on the top of the windlass, at the foot of the spars, called out, "Lay out there and furl the jib!" This was no agreeable or safe duty, yet it must be done.

An old Swede (the best sailor on board), who belonged on the forecastle, sprang out upon the bowsprit. Another must go. I was near the mate, and sprang forward, threw the downhaul over the windlass, and jumped between the knight-heads out upon the bowsprit.

The crew stood abaft the windlass and hauled the jib down, while we got out upon the weather side of the jib-boom, our feet on the foot-ropes, holding on by the spar, the great jib flying off to leeward and slatting so as almost to throw us off the boom.

For some time we should do nothing but hold on, and the vessel, diving into two huge seas, one after

the other, plunged us twice into the water up to our chins.

John (that was the sailor's name) thought the boom would go every moment, and called out to the mate to keep the vessel off and haul down the staysail; but the fury of the wind and the breaking of the seas against the bows defied every attempt to make ourselves heard, and we were obliged to do the best we could in our situation.

Fortunately no other seas so heavy struck her, and we succeeded in furling the jib "after a fashion"; and, coming in over the staysail nettings, were not a little pleased to find that all was snug and the watch gone below, for we were soaked through, and it was very cold.

We had now got hardened to Cape weather, the vessel was under reduced sail, and everything secured on deck and below, so that we had little to do but to steer and to stand our watch. Our clothes were all wet through, and the only change was from wet to more wet.

The only time when we could be said to take any pleasure was at night and morning, when we were allowed a tin pot full of hot tea, sweetened with molasses. This, bad as it was, was still warm and comforting, and, together with our sea biscuit and cold salt beef, made quite a meal.

Yet even this meal was attended with some uncertainty. We had to go ourselves to the galley and take our kid of beef and tin pots of tea and run the risk of losing them before we could get below. Many a kid of beef have I seen rolling in the scuppers and the bearer lying at his length on the deck.

We were now well to the westward of the Cape, and were changing our course to the northward as much as we dared, since the strong south-west winds, which prevailed then, carried us in towards Patagonia.

At two p.m. we saw a sail on our larboard beam, and at four we made it out to be a large ship, steering our course, under single-reefed topsails. As soon as our captain saw what sail she was under, he set the fore top-gallant sail and flying jib; and the old whaler—for such his boats and short sail showed him to be—felt a little ashamed, and shook the reefs out of his topsails, but could do no more, for he had sent down his top-gallant masts off the Cape.

He ran down for us, and answered our hail as the whalership *New England*, of Poughkeepsie, one hundred and twenty days from New York. The ship fell astern, and continued in sight during the night.

At eight o'clock we altered our course to the northward, bound for Juan Fernandez.

MONDAY, November 17th, was a black day in our calendar. At seven o'clock in the morning we

TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST

By R. H. Dana

were aroused from a sound sleep by the cry of "All hands ahoy! a man overboard!"

This unwonted cry sent a thrill through the heart of every one, and hurrying on deck, we found the vessel hove flat aback, with all her studding-sails set; for the boy who was at the helm left it to throw something overboard, and the carpenter, who was an old sailor, knowing that the wind was light, put the helm down and hove her aback.

The watch on deck were lowering away the quarter-boat, and I got on deck just in time to heave myself into her as she was leaving the side; but it was not until out upon the wide Pacific in our little boat that I knew we had lost George Ballmer, a young English sailor, who was prized by the officers as an active and willing seaman, and by the crew as a lively, hearty fellow, and a good shipmate.

He was going aloft to fit a strap round the main topmast-head for ringtail halyards, and had the strap and block, a coil of halyards, and a marline-spike about his neck. He fell from the starboard futtock shrouds, and not knowing how to swim, and being heavily dressed, with all those things round his neck, he probably sank immediately.

We pulled astern in the direction in which he fell, and though we knew that there was no hope of saving him, yet no one wished to

speak of returning, and we rowed about for nearly an hour without the hope of doing anything, but unwilling to acknowledge to ourselves that we must give him up. At length we turned the boat's head and made towards the vessel.

Death is at all times solemn, but never so much so as at sea. When a man falls overboard at sea and is lost there is a suddenness in the event, and a difficulty in realising it, which give to it an air of awful mystery.

Then, too, at sea—to use a homely but expressive phrase—you miss a man so much. A dozen men are shut up together in a little bark upon the wide sea, and for months and months see no forms and hear no voices but their own, and one is taken suddenly from among them, and they miss him at every turn.

All these things make such a death peculiarly solemn, and the effect of it remains upon the crew for some time.

There is more kindness shown by the officers to the crew, and by the crew to one another. There is more quietness and seriousness. The officers are more watchful, and the crew go more carefully aloft.

The lost man is seldom mentioned, or is dismissed with a sailor's rude eulogy—"Well, poor George is gone. His cruise is up soon. He knew his work, and did his duty, and was a good shipmate."

We had hardly returned on board with our sad report, before an auction was held of the poor man's clothes.

The captain had first, however, called all hands aft and asked them if they were satisfied that everything had been done to save the man, and if they thought there was any use in remaining there longer.

The crew all said that it was in vain for the man did not know how to swim, and was very heavily aft and used as a storechest, so

CROSSWORD CORNER

CLUES ACROSS.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9			10		11		
12		13		14			
15			16	17			
18			19	20		21	
			22				
23	24			25	26		
		27	28	29			
30	31		32	33			
34					35		
36				37			

CLUES DOWN.

1 Shore. 2 Better. 3 Chrysalises. 4 Struck out. 5 Soft food. 6 N.W. Canada. 7 Exist. 8 Troublesome. 11 Old vehicle. 13 One. 16 Disjoin. 20 Bunch of flowers. 21 Boy's name. 22 Dike. 23 Vie with. 24 Relish. 25 Girl's name. 26 Hem in. 29 Towards. 31 Unity. 32 Cling to.

LISP MARVEL
INCUR SUAVE
GROPE SPED
HOW PETTING
TALL COLD E
D A FIRE B
P RUED SALE
ADORNED LAX
LOBE DIVIDE
EMILY POKER
SENSES WEST

dressed. So we then filled away, that there was nothing left which and kept her off to her course.

The laws regulating navigation make the captain answerable for the effects of a sailor who dies during the voyage, and it is either a law or a universal custom, established for convenience, that the captain should immediately hold an auction of his things, in which they are bid off by the sailors, and the sums which they give are deducted from their wages at the end of the voyage.

Accordingly, we had no sooner got the ship before the wind than his chest was brought up upon the forecastle, and the sale began. The jackets and trousers in which we had seen him dressed but a few days before were exposed and bid off while the life was hardly out of his body, and his chest was taken to swim, and was very heavily aft and used as a storechest, so

1. An eagre is a hawk's nest. young badger, strong tide, high wind, waterspout, parson's collar, collie pup ?
2. Who wrote (a) The Flower of Life, (b) The Psalm of Life?
3. Which of the following is an intruder, and why? Barberry, Betony, Broom, Barra-couda, Burdock, Bur-reed.
4. What French General escaped from a prison in Germany in April, 1942?
5. What is the longest non-stop run on foot ever made?
6. What is a Purple Emperor?
7. All the following are real words except one; which is it? Obol, Obus, Obang, Obi, Oboe, Obit, Oboy.
8. Who knocked Carnera out of the Heavyweight Boxing Championship?
9. What two countries in South America have no sea coast?
10. What is a billet doux?
11. Pick out the spelling mistake in: The principle ingredient in usquebaugh is temporarily unobtainable.
12. How many composers can you think of whose names begin with G?

Answers to Quiz in No. 410

1. Cubic metre.
2. (a) Sutton Vane, (b) Fennimore Cooper.
3. Martingale is a piece of harness; others are articles of dress.
4. 1896
5. Yes; by E. H. Temme, 1934-5.
6. Badgers and foxes.
7. Odion.
8. 14-16 ounces.
9. Blake.
10. Mistletoe.
11. Oxygen atoms arranged in groups of three instead of two.

15 Newcombe's Short odd—But true

Tune of the American anthem, "Star-Spangled Banner," was written by English composer Charles Dibdin in honour of Lord Nelson.

Steam printing, invented by the German Konig, was first used by Mr. John Walter, of "The Times" newspaper, in 1814. This press printed 1,100 sheets an hour.

USELESS EUSTACE



"Blimey, ref! Ain't you 'eard of elastic defence—?"

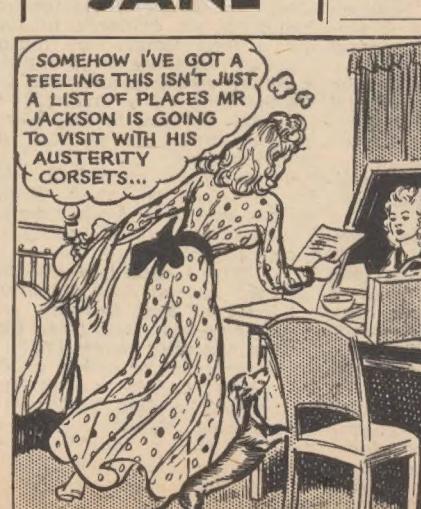
WANGLING WORDS—350

1. Put pursue in PURR and get a buyer.
2. In the following first line of a nursery rhyme, both the words and the letters in them have been shuffled. What is it? Prides ou dasi het het ot ylf pourral ym tion lawk town.
3. Altering one letter at a time, and making a new word with each alteration, change ARMY into NAVY and then back again into ARMY, without using the same word twice.
4. Find the two hidden foods in: If I shut the window, so, up goes the temperature.

Answers to Wangling Words—No. 349

1. CAleNDAR.
2. Good King Wenceslas looked out.
3. SIX, sex, set, met, men, TEN, tin, fin, fix, SIX.
4. Or-chid, Da-is-y.

JANE



No. 411

BEELZEBUB JONES



BELINDA



POPEYE



RUGGLES



GARTH



JUST JAKE



ARGUE THIS OUT FOR YOURSELVES

THE DOCTOR.

IT is a surprising but little realised fact that doctors are among the least civic-minded of citizens. During his training the medical student learns almost nothing about the structure of society. He leaves school at 17 or 18 and at once begins to turn into a technologist. It is virtually true to say that the young doctor of to-day leaves his hospital knowing a great deal about the human body, a little about the human mind (and most of that about the mind diseased), and almost nothing of the social and economic environment in which he and his patients live.

Gordon Malet.

LETTING OFF STEAM.

MANKIND wants periodical occasions for letting off steam, and those people who know more about the art of living than we do, for example, the Mediterranean peoples, with such institutions as Mardi Gras, Micarreme ... gave human beings the opportunity for taking off the collars and blinkers through which they have to go through most of their lives, and behaving for once like their own free, unconstrained natural selves. Provide safety valves for the letting-off of steam and people won't blow up so much in their ordinary lives.

Professor C. E. M. Joad.

TWENTY YEARS HENCE.

NOT until the post-war period has been passed are we likely to know whether the world has reached a more or less settled peace such as prevailed in the nineteenth century, or whether the post-war period has become a pre-war period as it did between 1931, when Japan seized Manchuria, and 1933, when Hitler rose to power. Our great task in all fields of endeavour is to manage this post-war period so that 15 or 20 years hence political relations are essentially stable and economic conditions are workable. If we succeed, we may pitch high our hopes and look confidently upon plans for collaboration among the free peoples.

Walter Lippmann.

FARMING.

FARMING is the only job in the world which must go on always. A day or two lost in a factory means less automobiles or planes, and that's important. But a day or two lost on a farm may mean that the whole year's food supply is gone.

Ralph Wightman.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

OF recent years it has become more and more difficult to secure the best type of men and women for service as members of local government bodies. The minor authorities have too little real responsibility to attract serious people in the numbers required, and the major authorities are so burdened with detailed administration that few men and women, unless they have "had their day" or have no other occupation, can afford the necessary time.

Sir Harald Webbe, M.P.

U.S.A. AND US.

WE hold our forks differently when we eat. And we pronounce words a little differently when we speak. And we have different ideas about how to keep warm in winter and how hot is a "heat wave" in July. And we like our beer at a different temperature. And these small matters of manners and customs may have more effect on history than trade rivalries or power jealousies. Millions of men and women who would be happy to feel kindly about each other will be condemned to feel distrustful unless we can learn to surmount such silly matters as what hand you hold your fork in or how to pronounce "Shaftesbury Avenue."

Ambassador J. G. Winant.

THE GERMAN HERD.

THE small minority of Germans who really do believe in violence and cruelty are able at stated intervals to infect the mass of their compatriots with the poisons of jealousy and rage; and the great German masses, possessing little moral or civic courage, are apt during these periods of infection to behave with a comrade immorality which bears no relation to their individual morality in their private lives. It is from this that arises the paradox, which even Goethe noticed, that the Germans, while often admirable as individuals, are apt to behave outrageously as a herd.

Harold Nicolson.

NO MORE LAISSEZ-FAIRE.

WE have corporately decided that what we want before all is to utterly lam the Germans and bumbaste Hitler's posterior. To this end prodigies of planning and organisation are now being devoted with conspicuous success. Only the very dumb can believe that the minute this desirable end is achieved all this concerted, organised activity must stop, the works of the watch must be taken to pieces, everything be reversed as much as possible, and laissez-faire become our watchword.

George Richards.

Good Morning

A dog's life. As tried by a playful racoon.



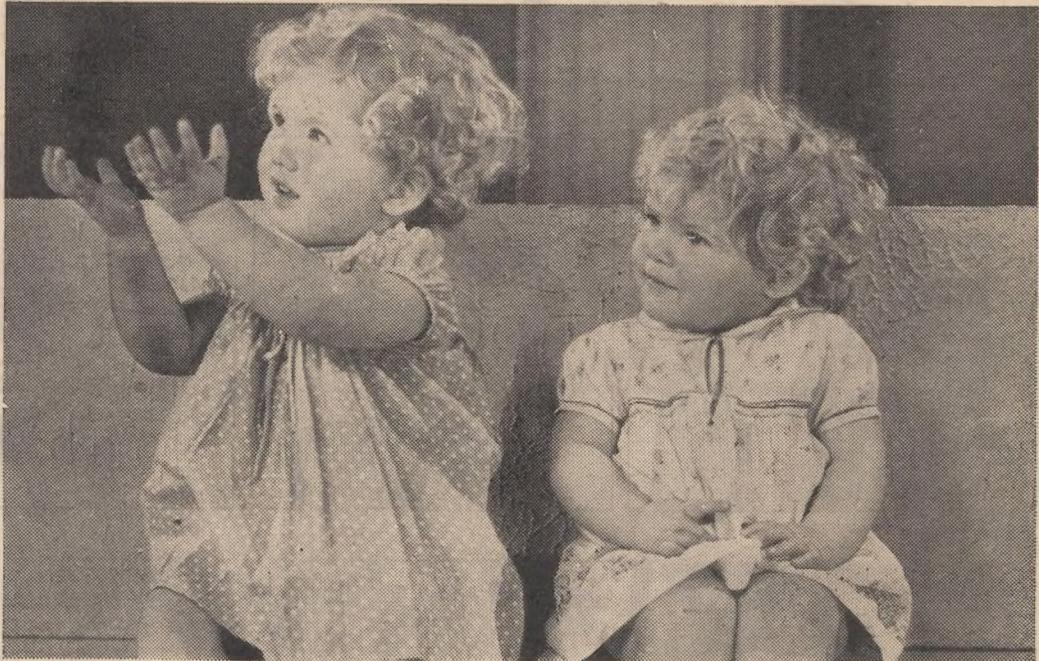
This England

A field of poppies and corn. A summer landscape in Nottinghamshire.



★
Marie Montez
brings Spanish
charm to Holly-
wood. Now why
does Hollywood
get this kind of
lucky luck?

★



"What a long time you are taking to catch that bubble. I must have sent it almost to the sky, you know!"



Look, brother. I got this fish, so please leave my beak alone!"

